

Membership

The Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force (CJITF) is composed of the following disciplines as mandated in the Children's Justice Act Grant. Members must reside in the state of Washington.

- Law Enforcement
- Superior Court Judge
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Child Advocate
- CASA Representative
- Health Professional
- Mental Health Professional
- Child Protective Service Agency
- Parent Group Representative
- Professionals who work with children with disabilities

Additionally, Task Force members help plan and participate in the Children's Justice Conference which is held annually and has become the largest Child Abuse and Neglect conference in the state of Washington in recent years. The website for the conference is: www.dshscjc.com.

For additional information on the Children's Justice Act Program, please call (360) 902-7966.

CJITF
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Olympia, WA 98504-5710



CA Children's Administration

DSHS 22-1254 (3/08)

Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force

Working together to secure justice and improve quality of life for the children in Washington State.



Washington State Department of Social & Health Services • Children's Administration

Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force

The Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force (CJITF), was created pursuant to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and operates under the auspices of Children's Administration within the Department of Social and Health Services. CJITF members are appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Children's Administration.

Mission

The mission of the Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force is to provide recommendations to DSHS/Children's Administration in the development, establishment, and operation of programs that promote safety and protection of children by improving:

- Legislative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases, (particularly sexual abuse and exploitation), in a manner which limits additional trauma to the child victim.
- Handling of child fatality cases in which child abuse or neglect is suspected.
- Handling of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health related problems who are victims of abuse or neglect.

Fulfilling the Mission

The role of the Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force is to:

- **Review and evaluate** (at three-year intervals), Washington's investigative, administrative, civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, (particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation), and suspect cases of child maltreatment fatalities. Additionally, it is to review cases involving a combination of jurisdictions, such as Interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal.
- **Recommend** policy, training, and funding with regard to the above, that reduces additional trauma to the child victim and victim's families, and that ensures procedural fairness to the accused.
- **Contribute** in developing experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques that may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings.
- **Reform** Washington laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to affected persons.

CJITF Committees

Grants & Projects Committee

Reviews, evaluates, and recommends policies and procedures in soliciting, selecting, and administering grant projects.

Nominations & Membership Committee

Monitors CJITF membership to ensure that it is reflective of Washington's state diversity and adheres to the Children's Justice Act mandates for membership.

Review & Evaluation Committee

Comprehensively reviews and evaluates the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases involving child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, child exploitation, and suspected child maltreatment related fatalities.

